	Particulars of works	Cost in lakh Rs.
Works completed		
1.	Maninagar—Shed on Dn passenger platform	7.36
2.	Kim—Sheds on Up and Dn Platforms	14.00
3.	Rajkot—Kota stone flooring on platform	14.07
4.	Dhola Jn. Asphalting pavment on platform etc.	5.94

No works have been sanctioned for Kheda Road and Sabarmati stations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of works sanctioned during 1998-99 are as under:

	Particulars of works	Anticipated cost in lakh Rs.
1.	Vadodara—Beautification of station building	23.58
2.	Surat—Extension of reservation office	20.00
	Surat—Extention of foot-over-bridge	14.90
3.	Vapi—Extension of platform covering and augmentation of Passenger Reservation system.	23.64
4.	Ahmedabad—Provision of foot-over-bridge	12.10
5.	Mehsana—Raising of platform to high level	14.95
6.	Sidhpur—Raising of platform to high level	10.14
	Sidhpur—Improvements to circulating area	9.00
7.	Bhandu—Raising of platform to high level	10.00
8.	Unjha—Improvements to circulating area	8.00
	Unjha—Provisions of platform shed	3.25
9.	Mehsana-Provision of platform shed	6.00
	Mehsana-Improvements to circulating area	4.93
10.	Chhapi—Improvements to circulating area	6.00
	Chhapi—Provision of platform shed	5.40

Unauthorised occupation at Nizamuddin Railway Station

740. SHRI YEDLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nizamuddin railway station is fast turning into a shelter for vendors, porters and parcel staff; and

(b) the steps taken to remove unauthorised occupation at the railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Regular checks are conducted by the Ticket Checking staff in association with the Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police personnel to check the entry and movement of unauthorised hawkers, beggars, porters and other anti-social elements at major stations.

Declaring Salem an Important Destination

741. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Salem has become an important destination in linking the Northern and Southern parts of rail routes;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in declaring Salem as Divisional Railway Headquarters which is pending for several years; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary steps in this regard on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) New Divisions are set up keeping in view factors liek size, work load, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/ administrative requirements, etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The proposal for creation of a new railway division at Salem when seen in the light of these considerations, is not found to be operationally feasible.

Availing loans by the Railways

742. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Observer dated 12th November, 1998 under the caption "proposed scrapping of commitment charges for risk cover on loans; Railway's development activities may be affected";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed in this regard; and

(d) the present status of fresh initiatives taken by the Railways to avail of loans from the World Bank and other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The methodology and implications of adoption of disintermediation policy in respect of external loans for the Railway sector are under consideration of the Government. No final decision in this regard has been taken.

(d) The Rail sector Improvement Project is under discussion with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A World Bank Loan for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II) is also under consideration.

पुष्कर को रेल मार्ग द्वारा जोड़ना

743. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या करोड़ों हिन्दुओं के तीर्थ स्थल पुष्कर को रेल मार्ग से जोड़ने की कोई योजना का सर्वेक्षण कार्य शुरू कराया गया है; यदि हां, तो कब; और

(ख) क्या सरकार को तीर्थ स्थल पुष्कर को रेल मार्ग से जोड़ने की आवश्यकता की जानकारी है; यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा किए गए प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) सर्वेक्षण का कार्य शुरू किया गया है। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध होने के बाद ही इस परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।

दौराई से मदार रेलवे स्टेशन तक के रेल मार्ग में पड़ने वाले समतल पारपथ

744. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दौराई से मदार रेलवे स्टेशन वाया अजमेर जंक्शन रेलवे लाइन पर पड़ने वाले समतल पारपथों की संख्या कितनी है और इन दो स्टेशनों के बीच की दूरी कितनी है; और

(ख) क्या रेलवे ने गत पचास वर्षों में अजमेर में वाहन चलने की क्षमता वाला कोई उपरि पुल बनाया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) 16 अदद। दुरई से मदार के बीच दूरी 13.31 कि०मी० है।

(ख) जी नहीं। रेलवे द्वारा उपरि सड़क पुलों का निर्माण तब किया जाता है जब लागत में भागीदारी के आधार पर या निक्षेप शर्तों पर राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रस्ताव प्रायोजित किये जाते हैं। पिछले 50 वर्षों के दौरान अजमेर में किसी उपरि सड़क पुल का निर्माण नहीं किया गया है। अजमेर सिटी में किसी उपरि सड़क पुल के निर्माण के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं चलाया गया है।

Membership of Elite International Railway Union by the Indian Railways

745. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways have become member of the 'Elite' International Railway Union; if so, what steps the Railways are taking to serve the common man comparatively in a better, safer and cheaper way; and